

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1851

Introduced by Assembly Members Gray and Ting

February 10, 2016

An act to amend Section 44274 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to vehicular air pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1851, as introduced, Gray. Air Quality Improvement Program.

Existing law establishes the Air Quality Improvement Program that is administered by the State Air Resources Board for the purposes of funding projects related to, among other things, reduction of criteria air pollutants and improvement of air quality. Existing law requires, until January 1, 2024, that a portion of the registration fees for motor vehicles and vessels be deposited into the Air Quality Improvement Fund and, upon appropriation, be expended for the implementation of the program.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 44274 of the Health and Safety Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 44274. (a) The Air Quality Improvement Program is hereby
- 4 created. The program shall be administered by the state board, in
- 5 consultation with the districts. The state board shall develop
- 6 guidelines to implement the program. Prior to the adoption of the

1 guidelines, the state board shall hold at least one public hearing.
2 In addition, the state board shall hold at least three public
3 workshops with at least one workshop in northern California, one
4 in the central valley, and one in southern California. The purpose
5 of the program shall be to fund, upon appropriation by the
6 Legislature, air quality improvement projects relating to fuel and
7 vehicle technologies. The primary purpose of the program shall
8 be to fund projects to reduce criteria air pollutants, improve air
9 quality, and provide funding for research to determine and improve
10 the air quality impacts of alternative transportation fuels and
11 vehicles, vessels, and equipment technologies.

12 (b) The state board shall provide preference in awarding funding
13 to those projects with higher benefit-cost scores that maximize the
14 purposes and goals of the Air Quality Improvement Program. The
15 state board also may give additional preference based on the
16 following criteria, as applicable, in funding awards to projects:

17 (1) Proposed or potential reduction of criteria or toxic air
18 pollutants.

19 (2) Contribution to regional air quality improvement.

20 (3) Ability to promote the use of clean alternative fuels and
21 vehicle technologies as determined by the state board, in
22 coordination with the commission.

23 (4) Ability to achieve climate change benefits in addition to
24 criteria pollutant or air toxic emissions reductions.

25 (5) Ability to support market transformation of California's
26 vehicle or equipment fleet to utilize low carbon or zero-emission
27 technologies.

28 (6) Ability to leverage private capital investments.

29 (c) The program shall be limited to competitive grants, revolving
30 loans, loan guarantees, loans, and other appropriate funding
31 measures that further the purposes of the program. Projects to be
32 funded shall include only the following:

33 (1) Onroad and off-road equipment projects that are cost
34 effective.

35 (2) Projects that provide mitigation for off-road gasoline exhaust
36 and evaporative emissions.

37 (3) Projects that provide research to determine the air quality
38 impacts of alternative fuels and projects that study the life-cycle
39 impacts of alternative fuels and conventional fuels, the emissions
40 of biofuel and advanced reformulated gasoline blends, and air

1 pollution improvements and control technologies for use with
2 alternative fuels and vehicles.

3 (4) Projects that augment the University of California's
4 agricultural experiment station and cooperative extension programs
5 for research to increase sustainable biofuels production and
6 improve the collection of biomass feedstock.

7 (5) Incentives for small off-road equipment replacement to
8 encourage consumers to replace internal combustion engine lawn
9 and garden equipment.

10 (6) Incentives for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and
11 equipment mitigation, including all of the following:

12 (A) Lower emission schoolbus programs.

13 (B) Electric, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid onroad and off-road
14 medium- and heavy-duty equipment.

15 (C) Regional air quality improvement and attainment programs
16 implemented by the state or districts in the most impacted regions
17 of the state.

18 (7) Workforce training initiatives related to advanced energy
19 technology designed to reduce air pollution, including
20 state-of-the-art equipment and goods, and new processes and
21 systems. Workforce training initiatives funded shall be broad-based
22 partnerships that leverage other public and private job training
23 programs and resources. These partnerships may include, ~~though~~
24 *but* are not limited to, employers, labor unions, labor-management
25 partnerships, community organizations, workforce investment
26 boards, postsecondary education providers including community
27 colleges, and economic development agencies.

28 (8) Incentives to identify and reduce emissions from
29 high-emitting light-duty vehicles.

30 (d) (1) Beginning January 1, 2011, the state board shall submit
31 to the Legislature a biennial report to evaluate the implementation
32 of the Air Quality Improvement Program established pursuant to
33 this chapter.

34 (2) The report shall include all of the following:

35 (A) A list of projects funded by the Air Quality Improvement
36 Account.

37 (B) The expected benefits of the projects in promoting clean,
38 alternative fuels and vehicle technologies.

- 1 (C) ~~Improvement~~ *The improvement* in air quality and public
2 health, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and the progress
3 made toward achieving these benefits.
- 4 (D) The impact of the projects in making progress toward *the*
5 attainment of state and federal air quality standards.
- 6 (E) Recommendations for future actions.
- 7 (3) The state board may include the information required to be
8 reported pursuant to paragraph (1) in an existing report to the
9 Legislature as the state board deems appropriate.